



INDIANA COMMISSION  
for  
HIGHER EDUCATION



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Higher Education Commission spotlights alternative learning models, welcomes new board member from Evansville**

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. –The Indiana Commission for Higher Education held its December board meeting today on the Indianapolis campus of Ivy Tech Community College. In addition to approving new degree programs and college building projects, the Commission welcomed new board member, Caren Whitehouse, and highlighted the growing role of alternative learning models and online education at Indiana colleges.

### **Alternative Learning Models**

In alignment with its *“Reaching Higher, Achieving More”* strategic plan, the Commission is considering the impact that online education and alternative learning models are having on Indiana colleges and universities. The Commission’s focus on alternative learning models featured presentations from leading state and national experts at Indiana University, Indiana Wesleyan University and Stanford University.

“The Commission is intently focused on working with our colleges to expand access to new learning models that offer the students of Indiana greater flexibility and accelerated degree completion while ensuring academic quality,” said Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner for Higher Education.

Co-founded by Stanford University professor, Dr. Andrew Ng, the for-profit educational company Coursera offers online courses called MOOCs, or Massive Open Online Courses for free in engineering, humanities, medicine, biology, mathematics, business and other concentrations. Coursera is based on Dr. Ng’s vision for a future where everyone has access to a world-class education for free.

### **New Commission Member**

Ms. Whitehouse is from Vanderburgh County and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Vanderburgh County Medical Society. Additionally, she serves on the Pulmonary Fibrosis Board of Directors, the Healthy Evansville Steering Committee and the Vanderburgh County Perinatal Task Force. She was appointed to the board by Governor Pence on November 18, 2013 and will serve through June 30, 2015, representing the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional district.

“Caren Whitehouse brings a unique perspective and a wealth of experience to the Commission and we are pleased to have the benefit of her counsel in our work to increase college completion and student success,” said Lubbers.

### **Commission Approvals**

Degree programs approval and capital projects concluded the meeting, with the Commission approving new degree programs from Indiana University South Bend, Indiana University Bloomington, IPFW and Ball State University. Capital projects for Indiana University in Bloomington and Richmond were approved, as well as Ivy Tech Community College’s new campus in Noblesville, Indiana, granting a total of \$22.6 million dollars to all three campuses.

### **About the Commission**

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is a 14-member public body created in 1971 to define the missions of Indiana’s colleges and universities, plan and coordinate the state’s postsecondary education system, and ensure that Indiana’s higher education system is aligned to meet the needs of students and the state. Learn more about the Commission and its *“Reaching Higher, Achieving More”* strategic plan at [www.che.in.gov](http://www.che.in.gov).

